

Volume 7, Edition 10



December 2003

**VOMARC Christmas Party December 17**  
**CALL JIM! EMAIL EILEEN! TURN LOOSE THE HOUNDS! JUST**  
**DON'T PANIC (YET)**

**FIRST THINGS FIRST!**

Because of the short lead-time from the club's decision where to hold the Christmas party and the time this newsletter arrives at your door, we need your immediate response with your dinner choices and reservations.

Your dinner choices are:

1. Roast veal
2. Chicken Cordon Bleu
3. Pasta Primavera

The cost is \$22.00 per person, including salad, desert and coffee.

We need to have the reservations in by December 10th. (Told you it was short notice! Sorry!) At this point, we're asking you to telephone Jim, K6UUW, at 935-4771 or e-mail Eileen at [eileen@vom.com](mailto:eileen@vom.com) with your order and then you

can pay at the door. If you want to send a check before the party, mail it to: Jim Hill, 1496 Nut Tree Lane.; Sonoma, CA 95476

**FROM THE TOP OF THE HILL**

First, I would like to send my wishes to you and your families for a joyous and prosperous New Year.

Even as the nation has had its ups and downs this last year, so has VOMARC. I would ask that all of you do your part in making this year of 2002 a successful one for our club. Our January meeting will focus on fixing the events for the year.

Our next ham class will start on Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, so if you would like to help teach, let me or Darrel (WD6BOR) know. Even if you

don't want to teach, your presence at the classes is valuable to give individual help to the students. Talk it up among your friends. There are a lot of retirees out there that might find our hobby a worthwhile pursuit. Also, try to recruit our young people as well. It's a sad fact that our club's future depends on getting new members.

As I write this, I am thinking about Ken (N6KM) and Pat (KE6LNN) and my wishes for a fun trip to Italy and a safe return.

You probably know that our frequencies are under a constant threat of being taken or forcing us to share them. The ARRL is doing all it can to keep this from happening. If you don't belong to the ARRL, please consider joining. It's only through this organization, that our bands will be safe. If you are a member, contributions to the 2002 fund for the Defense of Amateur Radio Frequencies could make a big difference. The league is working hard to get the 40 meter band amateur radio only throughout the world as well as finding new frequencies in the H.F. spectrum. Our biggest threat is from commercial interests who want our UHF frequencies. We are facing big dollars and its going to be a tough battle, so please help if you can. If nothing else, get on the air whenever possible. If you hear someone id on a repeater, answer and have a

QSO. Let's keep our bands active.

Our Christmas party is shaping up to be a huge success. Thanks to Steve Todd (K2IYQ) and John (W6TWQ) for putting it together.

We have been throwing around the idea of expanding the VOMARC Hamfest to include local crafts. If you would like to be on a committee to pursue this idea, please let me know. Remember that our Hamfest is our major fundraiser for the year. The more people we attract, the more breakfasts we can sell.

Hope to see you all at the Christmas party!  
73, Jim

### **VOMARC Minutes, November 19, 2003**

The meeting was called to order at 7:40PM. There were 21 in attendance.

The minutes were approved as published in the newsletter.

**Treasurer's report:** The treasurer being absent, the report was given by the president, Jim Hill, K6UUW. There is \$1828.01 in the bank.

**Vomarc web page report:** The web page continues to be developed and enhanced. The ACS net control list is on the website. If not already on, the Vomarc net list will be shortly. Anyone else having any pictures they feel would be good to show

club/ham activities, can sent them to Jan Bush, AE6FQ. Some pictures of Frank Jones, W6AJF, from whom the club got its call sign, have been found and will be on the web site. This led to discussion of Kermit Parker, W6JFN, having a biographical video of Frank Jones. It was suggested that he bring it for viewing as a program for one of the meetings next year. Ed Jacobs has a 1938 Text book written by Frank Jones in English and also a text written in Spanish that he might bring to one of the meetings.

There will be a radio museum at KPFA in Berkeley if anyone wishes to donate any items. It will be interesting to visit and see a history of radio.

### **Old Business:**

Solar panel report: Mike Miller, WB6TMH, reports that a different inductor is needed to improve the efficiency of the solar panel controller. As it stands now, there is 75% efficiency that could be 90% efficiency with the right inductor. Some of the panels are not working and will be exchanged for working ones. The controller will allow the DC voltage from the solar panels to be stepped down from their 90V output to the 14V needed for operation of the radio equipment.

**ACS report:** There was a hospital drill last week. The scenario was a bubonic plague outbreak. Ken, N6KM, got the

plague and died, leaving activation of the units to Jim Hill, K6UUW. The activation began and three people went to the EOC and four people went to the hospital. The purpose of the drill was to determine which hospitals in the county (from Sonoma to Sebastopol and up to Healdsburg) could hear each other and communicate on simplex frequencies. Those staffing the EOC could hear most of the stations. Those staffing the hospital were using HT's hooked to an external antenna and were able to hear, Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Warrick, but not Santa Rosa Memorial or Healdsburg. It was suggested that ACS needs to get a 2MM rig and a power supply to keep at the hospital with the other ACS equipment to allow sufficient power to allow our transmission to be heard by all the other emergency locations.

There was a VE session Saturday, November 15, 2003, at MacDougal Hall. There were seven VE's present and four people who took tests. Two passed the technician. The two who attempted upgrading to general will try again.

Marie from Little Switzerland finally got back to us regarding the Christmas dinner that will be held December 17, 2003, at Little Switzerland (arrive between 6:00 - 6:30PM), There will be three choices of entrees - veal, chicken, or pasta primavera. All will include salad, desert and coffee. The price is

\$22.00 per person inclusive. Please E-mail Eileen, KG6QNT, @ Eileen@vom.com or call her to reserve your spot, or tear out & return the reservation sheet in the newsletter. There is not much time, however, so prompt response is necessary to allow us to notify Little Switzerland of the number who will attend.

Badges have been made and distributed. Anyone still needing a club identification badge needs to contact Ed Caine, KA6OFR.

There is a Chambers of Commerce Business After Hours tomorrow night November 20, 2003, 5:30PM at the Sonoma Fire Station. It is suggested that the club set up a table demonstrating the Club and the ACS functions. The suggestion is put in motion and there will be a table there. All who can help are welcome.

ARRL dues were discussed. The club used to get a rebate of a couple dollars per subscription so it helped the club if members entered their subscriptions along with their club dues. This has been eliminated, so the consensus is that it is more expedient for members to renew their ARRL membership directly through ARRL. There are a few members who have already paid through the club and these will still be handled by the membership chairman and secretary.

Jim Hill, K6UUW, has a new club copy of the ARRL Antenna book

that can be checked out, read, and returned by club members. Included in the Antenna book is a CD with an antenna modeling program. A program suggestion for next year is to do a presentation on antenna modeling.

At the Pacificon conference, Jim Hill was given a copy of the new ARRL Handbook. This will be raffled off at the dinner in December in addition to the usual end of the year grand prize.

### **New Business:**

December net control for both ACS & VOMARC is Jim, K6UUW.

There was discussion of the club roster being published in the newsletter on an annual basis. This will be done. A modified roster is on the web page.

Nomination of officers included:

President: Jim Hill, George Mauer, and one other person who declined. George, also, declined although he said he could continue as vice president.

Vice President: George Mauer and Dan Sorrick. Dan has started night school, so it was suggested he might not have time for the vice president position at this time. His name was dropped for the present.

Secretary, Joan Brady

Treasurer: Jan Harvey and Ken McTaggart. Since Ken had indicated his willingness to be treasurer and since Jan had held

the office for many years, Jan withdrew.

The final nominations were:  
President, Jim Hill, Vice  
President, George Mauer,  
Secretary, Joan Brady,  
Treasurer, Ken McTaggart.

It was moved and seconded that a white ballot be cast. The white ballot was accepted. Installation of officers will be at the December dinner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM. There was a short break after which Jim Hill presented a program on the old and the new in ham radio. He has an old WWII NC348 radio that was laying around outside his son's house for many years. He brought it home and discovered it is in amazingly good condition. Kermit Parker helped explain the workings of this radio. There was a comparison with a new 2 meter HT.

There were 8 subscriptions to World Radio raffled off at the meeting as well as \$44.00 in cash.

Submitted, Joan Brady, W6WXU

### **Thank you, VOMARC!!**

Thank you all for the well wishes and the card. I feel as though I am the luckiest guy in the world to be able to call you friends. I am progressing well according to my medical team. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

73, Steve K2IYQ

## **THE VOMARC WIRELESS**

### **VOLUME 7 EDITION 9**

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club - W6AJF

Frank C. Jones - W6AJF  
Honorary President in Perpetuity

### **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Jim Hill, K6UUW - Mr. Wonderful  
President  
George Maurer, K6ITE- Mr. Marvelous  
Vice-Pres  
Joan Brady, W6WXU - Ms. Glorious  
Secretary  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Mr. Admirable  
Treasurer  
Mike Miller, WB6TMH - Mr. Wizard  
Radio Officer  
Ken McTaggart, N6KM - Mr. Rear  
Admirable ACS Guy  
Steve Todd, K2IYQ - Mr. Outstanding  
Social Sec'ty  
Jan Bush, AE6FQ \_ Mr. Stunning  
Webmeister  
Darrel Jones, WD6BOR - Mr. Not-So-  
Bad Editor

***Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC.***

**CLUB MEETINGS** are held on the third Wednesday of each month, alternating between McDougal Hall at the Sonoma Developmental Center, Eldridge, and the Sonoma Fire Station, 630 2<sup>nd</sup> Street West, Sonoma. Meetings start at 19:30 local (7:30 P.M.).

**WEB PAGE:**  
<http://www.vomarc.org/>

**Nets** are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

**ACS** holds a net each Monday evening at 19:30 local on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

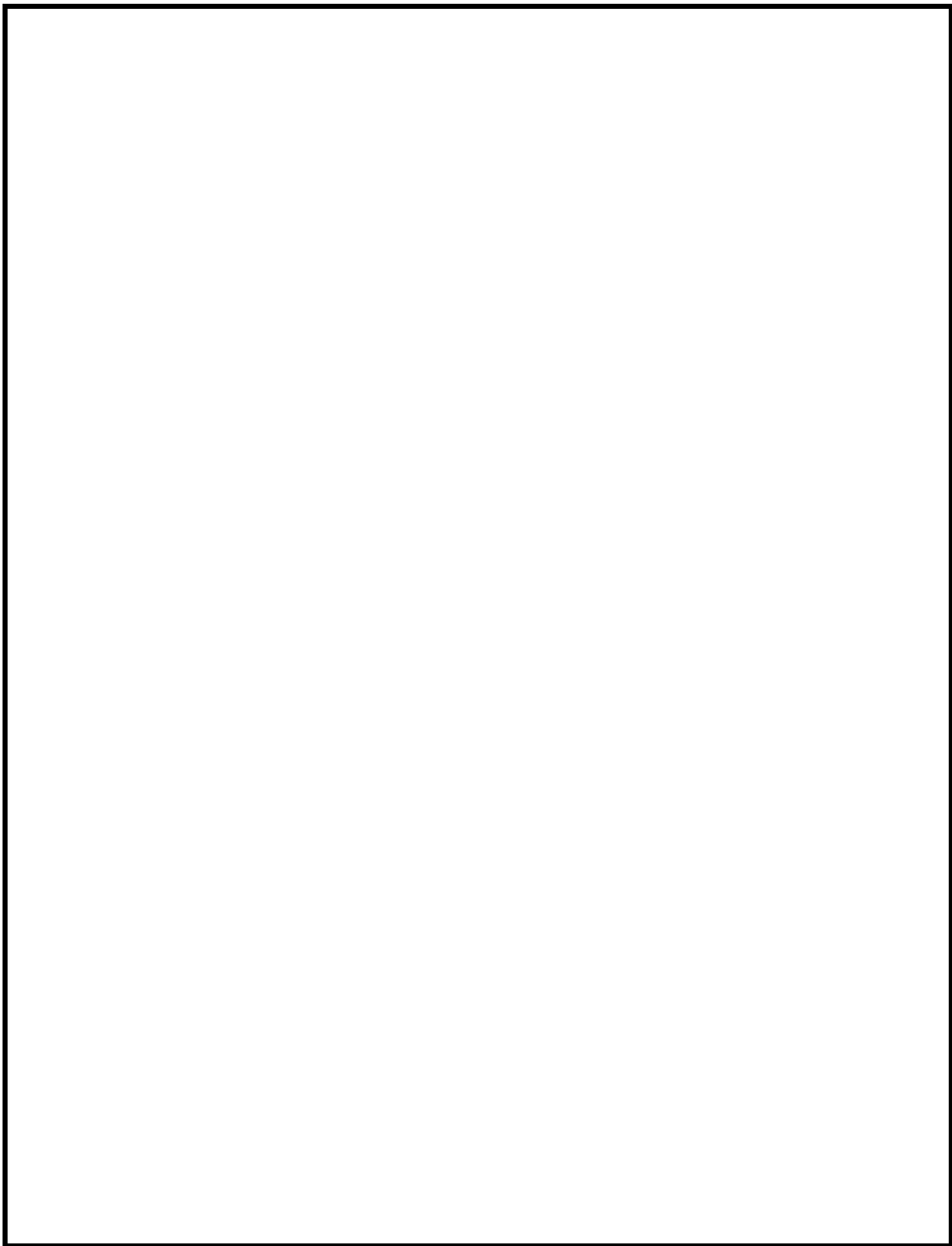
**PACKET STATION INFO:** The VOMARC packet station is on 144.910 as "SNV1EC". "SNVGW" can be used as a gateway digipeating on 223.66 MHz. The node name is "SNVND".

**CLUB BREAKFASTS** are held on the first Saturday of each month at Issa's Restaurant, 18999 Sonoma Highway, Sonoma. The fun starts at 09:30 local.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:  
WD6BOR@VOM.COM

**Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.**

175 First Street West  
Sonoma, CA 95476



### VOMARC Current Membership

Call prefix	Suffix	First name	Last name	Home phone	E-mail
KG6	QNT	Eileen	Adams	707 938-2545	Eileen@vom.com
KG6	QJQ	Tom	Benton	707 996-2107	tombenton@vom.com
K6	KLY	Russ	Bentson		res1loq4@verizon.net
W6	WXU	Joan	Brady	707 996-0791	ibrady@vom.com
AE6	FQ	Jan	Bush	707 939-2912	jisonoma@comcast.net
KG6	LQJ	Jeanne E.	Bush	707 939-2912	jeeble@comcast.net
KA6	OFR	Edward Eliot	Caine	707 996-0962	eecaine@vom.com
AC7	SP	Tim	Clauson		
KD7	QZB	Charlotte	Clauson		
KA2	QOQ	Declan J.	Cunniff		declan@delbarton.org
KD6	FIL	David	Dammuller	707 545-5822	davidda@sonic.net
KD6	KVP	Pat	Eckman	707 938-2726	
KD6	KVT	Bob	Fohlen	707 935-6703	fohlen@vom.com
KG6	GLO	Ron	Franklin	707 938-2288	
KG6	LJP	Ashley	Gravatt		
KF6	FZM	Dick	Hanna	707 996-3402	rdhanna100@aol.com
K9	OOU	Jan	Harvey	707 935-3494	k9oou@earthlink.net
K6	UUW	Jim	Hill	707 935-7441	jhill@vom.com
W1	EJ	Ed	Jacobson	707 778-6141	w1ej@attbi.com
KE6	WGV	Lolly	Jones	707 938-8086	
KE6	DCS	Jenny	Jones		
KE6	LNP	Catherine	Jones	707 938-8086	
WD6	BOR	Darrel	Jones	707 938-8086	wd6bor@vom.com
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KD6	KVY	Steve	Marler	707 938-0876	chief3701@aol.com
KD6	KVZ	John	Masters	707 938-8389	
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		Betty	McCauley	707 996-6461	
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NN6	J	Joel	Nadler	707 545-1782	jlnadler@earthlink.net
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NJ6	E	Stan	Salek	707 935-3272	ssalek@h-e.com
KG6	HFS	Chris	Secor		cqsecor@aol.com
W6	KTU	Tom	Sehabiaque	707 996-8761	sehabiaque@prodiav.net
KD6	AGK	Tom	Sehabiaque Jr.	707 935-1651	sehab@msn.com
W6	TWQ	John	Sharpe	707 996-3312	sharpe_j@msn.com
N6	CX	Glen R.	Smith	707 833-5282	
KG6	LJN	Dan	Sorricks	707 996-9203	dsorricks@vom.com
KG6	LJM	Linda	Sorricks	707 996-9203	
K6	XH	Gerhard	Straub		
KB5	EGT	Barbara	Straub		
W6	RJT	Rodney	Thorsen	707 996-6634	
K2	IYQ	Steve	Todd	707 938-5016	k2ivq@vom.com
KD6	KWM	Dave	Willey		davewilley@sbcglobal.net
K6	KLL	Alan	Young	707 255-4480	k6kll@aol.com



**Valley of the Moon  
ARC  
1496 Nut Tree Lane  
Cerritos, CA 92540**

**NOTICE!!! THE DECEMBER VOMARC MEETING IS  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, AT 7:00 P.M. AT LITTLE  
SWITZERLAND, CORNER OF GROVE STREET AND  
RIVERSIDE DRIVE. CU THERE!**

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**VOMARC MEMBERSHIP**

**VOMARC 2003** Membership Dues: \$10/year individual; \$5/year family member.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org).

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ APT: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VOMARC:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ ARRL:\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL:\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC** - 1496 Nut Tree  
Lane, Sonoma, CA 95476